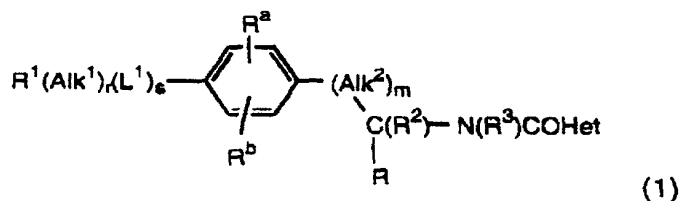


**CLAIMS**

1. A compound of formula (1)



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wherein

R is a carboxylic acid or a derivative thereof;

- 10 R<sup>1</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl, straight or branched alkoxy or optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

Alk<sup>1</sup> is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

L<sup>1</sup> is a linker atom or group;

- 15 r and s, which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1 provided that when r is zero R<sup>1</sup> is an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

- 20 R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup>, which may be the same or different is each an atom or group -L<sup>2</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>L<sup>3</sup>(R<sup>c</sup>)<sub>q</sub> in which L<sup>2</sup> and L<sup>3</sup> is each a covalent bond or a linker atom or group, p is zero or the integer 1, q is an integer 1, 2 or 3 and R<sup>c</sup> is a hydrogen or halogen atom or a group selected from straight or branched alkyl, -OR<sup>d</sup> [where R<sup>d</sup> is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched alkyl group], -SR<sup>d</sup>, -NR<sup>d</sup>R<sup>e</sup>, [where R<sup>e</sup> is as just defined for R<sup>d</sup> and may be the same or different], -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>d</sup>,  
 25 -SO<sub>3</sub>H, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>d</sup>, -OCO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>d</sup>, -CONR<sup>d</sup>R<sup>e</sup>, -OCONR<sup>d</sup>R<sup>e</sup>, -CSNR<sup>d</sup>R<sup>e</sup>, -COR<sup>d</sup>, -N(R<sup>d</sup>)COR<sup>e</sup>, N(R<sup>d</sup>)CSR<sup>e</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>d</sup>)(R<sup>e</sup>), -N(R<sup>d</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>e</sup>, -N(R<sup>d</sup>)CONR<sup>e</sup>R<sup>f</sup> [where R<sup>f</sup> is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched alkyl group], -N(R<sup>d</sup>)CSNR<sup>e</sup>R<sup>f</sup> or -N(R<sup>d</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>e</sup>R<sup>f</sup>;

Alk<sup>2</sup> is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

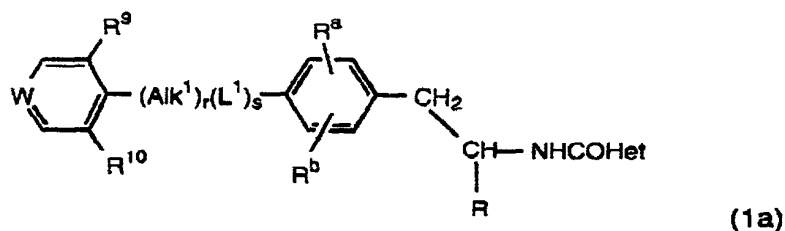
- 30 m is zero or an integer 1;

R<sup>2</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

R<sup>3</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group;

Het is an optionally substituted heteroaromatic group;  
and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Het is an optionally substituted C<sub>3-5</sub> monocyclic heteroaromatic group containing one, two or three heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen atoms.
3. A compound according to Claim 2 wherein Het is an optionally substituted pyrrolyl or pyridyl group.
4. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R is a -CO<sub>2</sub>H group.
5. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Alk<sup>2</sup> is a -CH<sub>2</sub>- chain and is an integer 1.
6. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein each of R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> is a hydrogen atom.
7. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group.
8. A compound according to Claim 7 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl or pyrimidinyl group.
9. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein -(Alk<sup>1</sup>)<sub>r</sub>(L<sup>1</sup>)<sub>s</sub> is a -CH<sub>2</sub>O-, -SO<sub>2</sub>NH-, -C(O)O- or -CON(R<sup>4</sup>)- group.
10. A compound according to Claim 9 wherein -(Alk<sup>1</sup>)<sub>r</sub>(L<sup>1</sup>)<sub>s</sub> is a -CONH- group.
11. A compound according to Claim 1 which has the formula (1a):



wherein -W= is -CH= or -N=,  $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$ , which may be the same or different is each a  $-L^2(CH_2)_pL^3(R^c)_q$  atom or group as generally and particularly defined above, and  $Alk^1$ ,  $r$ ,  $L^1$ ,  $s$ ,  $R^a$ ,  $R^b$ ,  $R$  and Het are as generally and particularly defined above, and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

12. A compound according to Claim 11 wherein Het is an optionally substituted pyrrolyl or pyridyl group.

13. A compound according to Claim 1 which is:  
 2-Thio(S-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)nicotinoyl-(N-2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine;  
 2-Thio(S-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)nicotinoyl-(N-2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine;  
 N-(3,5-Dichloro-4-picolyl)-N'-(3,5-dichloro-4-picolyl)-L-4-amino-phenylalanine;  
 N-(2-Chloronicotinoyl)-N'-(3,5-dichloro-4-picolyl)-L-4-amino-phenylalanine;  
 O-(2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-N-(4-acetyl-1,2,5-trimethyl-3-pyrrolyl)-L-tyrosine;  
 (N'-3,5-Dichloroisonicotinoyl)-N-([3-pyridinylmethyl]thio)isonicotinoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine;  
 N-(4-Acetyl-1,2,5-trimethyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carbonyl)-N'-(3,5-dichloro-4-picolyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine; and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.